

FIRST BAPTIST INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH
4220 W. 18th Street - Chicago, IL 60623



90 *Years*
WALKING BY FAITH

90TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HEBREWS 11:1-3

Sunday Morning Worship - July 16th, 2023
Reverend Aaron Brasfield, Jr. - Pastor/Administrator
Firstbic.org - 773.522.3300 - 4220fbic@sbcglobal.net

**Order of Service for
Sunday, July 16, 2023**

Call to Worship

Rev. Jonas Watson

Devotion

Deacons/Praise Team

Worship Leader

Bro. Mark Ferguson

Welcome

The Ministers Wives

Theme

Sis. Jackie Butler

Church History

The Youth Department

Introduction of Guest Preacher

**Rev. Aaron Brasfield, Jr.,
Pastor**

**Rev. Dr. Joel D. Taylor, Pastor
Greater Mount Pleasant & St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church
Chicago, IL**

Remarks

**Rev. Aaron Brasfield Jr.,
Pastor**

Benediction & Blessing of the food

Rev. Dr. Joel Taylor

Church History 1933-2023

The First Baptist Church as most churches had a humble beginning. Rev. P.T. Tyson had no church building, but he had a Bible, the love of God in his heart, a vision, and will to do something about it. Rev. Tyson organized First Baptist in 1933, holding its first meeting on the corner of Union Ave and Liberty Street, which is now the Dan Ryan expressway.



In 1943 after a fruitful ministry, Rev. Tyson was called from labor to reward. During the period from 1943 until 1946, Rev. Benson, Rev. Hope, and Rev. Moses pastored the First Baptist Church. During this time, First Baptist was like a ship tossed upon an angry sea. Under the leadership of Rev. Moses, First Baptist for a while held services in a tent on the corner of Miller and Maxwell Streets, where he resigned. In 1946, the Rev. Cornelious Lemon was called to the ministry, and was ordained by Rev. B.D. Bishop, and in the same year was called to pastor the First Baptist Church. At this time, services were held in the Maxwell Street YMCA.

The membership increased under the leadership of Rev. Lemon. The building at 1080 W. 14th Street was rented in 1947 and became home to the First Baptist Church. He proved to be a man of many talents with progressive ideas which caused the membership to grow from 100, after which the First Baptist Church moved to 1341 Morgan Street. In 1953, the church purchased a site at 3358-60 W. Ogden Avenue. Under his leadership, he organized 14 auxiliaries and had a membership of 1,500. Rev. Lemon had the opportunity to host a radio program on WSBC, which was the first station to have its first African American disc jockey and full hour of African American talent. On September 22, 1961, Rev. Lemon's labor on earth ended.



In January of 1962, a portion of the church was damaged by fire. The officers made the decision to conduct services in other spaces including a local masonic hall, other church facilities, and a school auditorium until repairs were completed. In February of 1962, the church extended a call to Rev. Floyd Prestor Piper, who was pastoring in Chicago Heights, IL. In 1963 under the leadership of Rev. Piper, the church was renovated and the old mortgage was burned. This also allowed for new offices to be established and 13 lots purchased at 18th & Keeler. He also established 14 new auxiliaries making a record 28 in total and a relief fund for those in need. Rev. Piper held a 30-minute radio program on WBEE.

On March 8, 1970, a vision became reality. God delivered the First Baptist Church from smaller edifices to a well equipped, air-conditioned edifice. The new facility included a 2,000 seat auditorium, baptismal pool, wedding chapel, recreation center, fellowship hall for banquets and other church socials, and full kitchen.

To God Be the Glory!



On June 10, 1979, yet another vision became reality with the laying of the Cornerstone, commemorating the accomplishment of the new edifice as well as the addition of 4 acres of land, a new organ, kitchen appliances, and more. In June of 1983, the church purchased 10 biblical stained glass windows. Due to financial success, the church celebrated the burning of the mortgage in November of 1987.



In 1988, Rev. Piper retired as pastor due to failing health. He became Pastor Emeritus following his retirement. The torch was then passed on to Rev. O. Everett Piper, a native of Dallas, Texas.

Under Rev. O.E. Piper's leadership, First Baptist established a Christian Education department, causing the conversion of the gymnasium into 10 classrooms. The facility was named "The F. P. Piper Christian Education Center for Biblical Studies".

In addition, new church auxiliaries were formed bringing the total to 36, a huge investment was made to upgrade technology in classrooms, offices, as well as the sanctuary, and the addition of a highway bus and fully licensed day care center. In 1994, the church name was changed to First Baptist Institutional Church, striving to focus on community service and Christian education. In addition, the church paid off surrounding property and purchased land on 16th and Keeler. One of Rev. Piper's most proud accomplishments was establishing the Ministers United for Ministerial Development (MUMD) as a nationwide network of ministers and their wives.

Rev. Piper's tenure ended with his transition in November of 1996.

With the need of a new pastor and a strong recommendation from Rev. O.E. Piper and being led by the Holy spirit, the church was led to elect Rev. Aaron Brasfield, Jr. of San Antonio, Texas. Under his leadership, the church instituted a regular prayer service every Sunday, the youth department grew significantly with the addition of praise dance ministries, the Male Chorus was named in the memory of Rev. O.E. Piper, and another church vehicle was purchased to assist members with transportation to the church.



In 2020, the church celebrated Rev. Brasfield's 50th year in ministry and 25th year as Pastor in 2022. In 2012, the church sought out to celebrate the rich history and family legacies that continue to grace our church with the establishment of the heritage wall featuring legacy bricks. These bricks represent generations of families, members who have passed on, and the continued desire to be a family-oriented church body.

To this day, the First Baptist Institutional Church continues to maintain the beautiful edifice on the corner of 18th and Keeler and continue kingdom building in the North Lawndale community.

- ^{11:1} Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
² For by it the elders obtained a good report.
³ Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

Hebrews 11:1-3



We dedicate this page to the memory of the souls that crossed our paths and being led by the Holy spirit, contributed to the success and longevity of our church.

“Every member, every time, makes the church MIGHTY fine!”

Thank you!

**On behalf of the First Baptist Institutional
Church Anniversary Committee, we would like
to take this time to say thank you.**

**We are thankful and blessed that you took time out of
your schedule to spend time with us on our 90th
church anniversary! We pray that this day has
been a joyful one for you.**

The 2023 Anniversary Committee

Sis. Cynthia Streeter, Chair

Sis. Angela Washington

Sis. Dawn Howard-Williams

Sis. Rochelle Hudson

Opportunities to Serve

Brotherhood

1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 7:00 PM

Bible Study

Live Session - Wednesdays at 12:00 PM

Rebroadcast - 7:00 PM

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“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

James 5:16

Let us continue to pray for those in our congregation and around the world; whether sick, shut-in, mentally ill, and more.

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